

# Bethel Banner

## Pastor's Message

by Rev. Dr. John Witkop

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER, 2009

December is always an amazing time of worship, joyful events and preparing for and celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This year we have the exciting culmination of a search process that has lead us to hire a new Youth Minister. His name is Marcus Carlson and he begins his position with Bethel on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Marcus is married to his wife Jessica and they have two children, Micah age 4 and Abby age 2. Please reach out to them and introduce yourselves to them numerous times. They have the task of getting to know all of us, while we simply need to learn four new names.

**Christmas Eve Services:** All three services this year will have traditional Christmas music, Holy Communion and candlelight at 3, 5, and 7pm. The Joyful Noise children's choir will sing at the 3pm service. There will be soloists and special music at the 5pm service and the Adult choir will sing at the 7pm service. Please come and invite a friend or neighbor who may not have plans for worship on Christmas Eve!

There are many opportunities to plug into the life of Bethel during this season of joy. Please note the following dates and events and join in as we celebrate Jesus birth in all its splendor:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| December 2, 9, 16 | Advent Worship at 7pm                          |
| December 12-13    | Christmas Choir Cantata                        |
| December 13       | Sunday School Christmas Program, 9:15- 10:15am |
| December 20       | Little London Winds Concert, 7pm               |
| December 24       | Christmas Eve Services, 3,5,7pm                |
| December 27       | Breakfast at Bethel, 9am                       |

Jesus came as a baby born in Bethlehem, destined to be the Messiah promised by prophets and announced by John the Baptizer. Jesus comes into our world today, as we share the gospel, share his supper, share his words of forgiveness and share in the fellowship of the baptized in his church. Jesus will come again to 'make all things new and judge the world in righteousness.'

May you be blessed to be a blessing to others during this Advent, Christmas and "Holy-day" season.

Pastor John

*Pastor John*



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# DECEMBER WORSHIP CALENDAR

**Worship Coordinators: 5:30-Gene Wahl 390-1150; 8:00-Shari Kraus 495-8449; 10:30-Bob Curnow 528-1356**

**Flowers: Dec. 6**—Dale & Karen Kolseth, **Dec. 13**—Dave & Carol Nelson, **Dec. 20**—OPEN, **Dec. 27**—OPEN


**Welcome Center [10:00]: Dec. 6**—Skip Martin, **Dec. 13**—Linda Osterberg, **Dec. 20**—Marie St. Gelais, **Dec. 27**—Mary Jane Stanley

**Video: Dec. 6**—Ashley Wallinger, **Dec. 13**—Miles Brown, **Dec. 20**—Jack Witkop, **Dec. 27**—Dave Lund

**Audio: Dec. 5**—Bennett Granaas, **Dec. 6**—Dave Bingham & Gary Waasdorp, **Dec. 12**—Chuck Bader, **Dec. 13**—Charles Zarza & Kevin Peterson, **Dec. 19**—Bennett Granaas, **Dec. 20**—Dave Bingham & Gary Waasdorp, **Dec. 24**—Gary Waasdorp, **Dec. 26**—Chuck Bader, **Dec.27**—Charles Zarz & Kevin Peterson

| Date                          | Greeter                    | Usher   | Acolyte          | Reader            | Altar             | Communion Assistant  | Nursery           |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Dec. 5</b><br><b>5:30</b>  | OPEN                       | Jerry & Julie Volk                                    | Jack Witkop      | Gisela Peterson   | Cheryl Bingham    | Cheryl & Dave Bingham, Gisela Peterson, Julei Loera                                | Stephany Green    |
| <b>Dec. 6</b><br><b>8:00</b>  | Karen & Verlyn Hammerstrom | Alice Hamilton, Barbara, Jeff & Jase Hamstad          | Claire Helmreich | Tom Vien          | Debbie Howes      | Tom & Carmen Vien, John & Millie Farquhar  | Stephany Green    |
| <b>10:30</b>                  | Esther & Homer Byrd        | Karen & Randy Reynolds, Josh Prater, Monica Knight    | Jennifer Knight  | Ted Costello      | Kathleen Granaas  | Carolyn & Clarence Gianarelli, Denise Knight, Ted Costello, Antje & Dave Lund      | Maddie Bender     |
| <b>Dec. 12</b><br><b>5:30</b> | OPEN                       | Kevin & Alice Magrino                                 | Dillon Kelly     | Pam Bakken-O'Neil | Pam Bakken-O'Neil | Bruce & Sheila Kelly, Karen Hoefer, Pam Bakken-O'Neil                              | Stephany Green    |
| <b>Dec. 13</b><br><b>8:00</b> | Carolyn & Larry Haught     | Judi Taylor, Debbie Wallace, Tom & PK Petitmermet     | Meghan Gould     | Chuck Zarza       | PK Petitmermet    | Chuck Zarza, Cate Brewster, Laurie & Jeremy Edwards                                | Mary Jane Stanley |
| <b>10:30</b>                  | Kristin & Mike Slater      | Brian, matt & Carolyn Kelly, Dennis Hennings          | Jonah Pfennigs   | Margaret Curnow   | Cathy Guman       | Brian Kagarise, Margaret Curnow, Cathy Tice, Debbie & Steve Ogurek, Stacie Merritt | Danielle Dupont   |
| <b>Dec. 19</b><br><b>5:30</b> | OPEN                       | Brian & Peggy Dahl                                    | Ryan Ruyak       | Al Garcia         | Pat Volker        | Fred & Maureen Miller, Al & Cindy Garcia   | Stephany Green    |
| <b>Dec. 20</b><br><b>8:00</b> | Tom & PK Petitmermet       | Mary Jane Stanley, Dee Pittenger, Jeremy & Julie Volk | David Weber      | Sarah Wulfsberg   | Laurita Anderson  | Sarah Wulfsberg, Karen Hammerstrom, Roger & Margaret Schutte                       | Stephany Green    |
| <b>10:30</b>                  | Nancy & Steve Van Tine     | Kristin & Mike Slater, Jacob Loya, Ken Knapp          | Joshua Rogerson  | Stephanie Fisher  | Gina Nygaard      | Cathy Johnson, Stephaie fisher, Tammy & Todd Wallinger, Candy & Larry Ourada       | Jesse Lehman      |
| <b>Dec. 26</b><br><b>5:30</b> | OPEN                       | Barb & Jim Saunders                                   | Jadyn Klein      | Brianna Bader     | Nancy Bader       | Brianna, Chuck & Nancy Bader, Dakota Schroeder                                     | Stephany Green    |
| <b>Dec. 27</b><br><b>8:00</b> | Brett & Jason Skattum      | Kathy LaBree, Theresa & Wayne Guthals, Dick Conrad    | Alecia Brown     | Jeff Berg         | Millie Farquhar   | Jeff Berg, Bette Krause, Ginny Laura, Debbie Wallace                               | Stephany Green    |
| <b>10:30</b>                  | Ted & Wendy Costello       | Bob & Cathy Tice, Bill & Cathy Guman                  | Curtis Shiflet   | Kay Mac Enulty    | Antje Lund        | Danielle Hintgen, Kay & Bill Mac Enulty, Amy Magnone, Susan Bodlak, Kathy Chewakin | Rachael Scharp    |

# December 2009

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat  |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Please pray for the families<br/>In bold.</b>   |  |   |  |   |  |  |
| <b>6 Ourada, J &amp; A</b><br>8:00a—Worship<br>9:15a—Sunday School<br>10:30a—Worship<br>2:00p—Line Dancing Small Group<br>6:30p—ATTIC  | <b>7 Ourada, L &amp; C</b><br>6:30p—Beth Moore Bible Study<br>6:30p—Cub Scouts Den 3<br>6:30p—VdC Men's Group  | <b>1 Olson, K</b><br>9:00a—Comfort Makers<br>11:00a—Staff Meeting<br>6:30p—Worship & Music<br>6:45p—Jacob's Ladder Rehearsal<br>7:00p—Bible Study   | <b>2 Olson, M</b><br>6:30a—Up & Adam Bible Study<br>10:30a—WEST<br>6:00p—Confirmation Dinner<br>6:30p—Confirmation Class<br>7:00p—Stephen Ministry<br>7:00p—Venture Crew 1225<br>7:00p—Advent Service                              | <b>3 Opp</b><br>9:00a—WEB<br>9:30a—Preschool Chapel<br>1:00p—Senior Bridge<br>2:30p—El-Salvador Meeting<br>6:30p—Counseling<br>6:30p—Adult Choir Rehearsal                    | <b>4 Osten</b><br>5:30a—Clean Nursery<br>1:00p—Senior Pinochle<br>7:00p—Youth Lock-In                                  | <b>5 Osterberg</b><br>5:30p—Worship<br>6:30p—New Member<br>Speaggetti Dinner   |
| <b>6 Ourada, J &amp; A</b><br>8:00a—Worship<br>9:15a—Sunday School<br>10:30a—Worship<br>2:00p—Line Dancing Small Group<br>6:30p—ATTIC  | <b>7 Ourada, L &amp; C</b><br>6:30p—Beth Moore Bible Study<br>6:30p—Cub Scouts Den 3<br>6:30p—VdC Men's Group  | <b>8 Palazzari</b><br>9:15a—RUTH<br>11:00a—Staff Meeting<br>6:30p—Finance Team<br>6:30p—4-H for Homeschoolers<br>6:30p—Joint Council Ministry<br>6:30p—Small Group<br>6:45p—Jacob's Ladder Rehearsal<br>7:00p—Youth & Family Ministry | <b>9 Palmer</b><br>6:30a—Up & Adam Bible Study<br>9:30a—Preschool Chapel<br>10:30a—WEST<br>6:00p—Confirm. Dinner & Class<br>7:00p—Stephen Ministry<br>7:00p—Children's Ministry<br>6:45p—Advent Service<br>7:00p—Venture Crew 1225 | <b>10 Peeken</b><br>1:00p—Senior Bridge<br>6:30p—Counseling<br>6:30p—Adult Choir Rehearsal<br>6:30p—Technology Team   | <b>11 Petersen, G</b><br>7:00p—BUNCO<br>7:00p—Ballroom Dancing<br>6:30p—Adult Choir Rehearsal<br>6:30p—Technology Team | <b>12 Petersen, K &amp; J</b><br>9:30a—Christmas Program<br>Rehearsal<br>5:00p—Bake Sale<br>5:30p—Worship<br>Choir Cantata |
| <b>13 Petersen, K &amp; N</b><br>8:00a—Bake Sale<br>8:00a—Worship Choir Cantata &<br>9:15a—Children's Christmas<br>Program<br>9:15a—Sunday School<br>10:30a—Worship choir Cantata<br>12:00p—Seniors Christmas Lunch<br>6:30p—ATTIC | <b>14 Peterson, P &amp; C</b><br>8:00a—AHA Life Line Screening<br>6:00p—Little London Winds<br>Rehearsal<br>6:30p—Cub Scout Den 3<br>6:30p—Beth Moore Bible Study<br>6:30p—VdC Men's Group | <b>15 Peterson, V</b><br>11:00a—Staff Meeting<br>6:30p—Inreach<br>6:30p—Congregation Council<br>6:45p—Jacob's Ladder Rehearsal  | <b>16 Pettimermet</b><br>6:30a—Up & Adam Bible Study<br>10:30a—WEST<br>6:00p—Confirm. Dinner & Class<br>6:30p—Stephen Ministry<br>7:00p—Advent Service<br>7:00p—Venture Crew 1225  | <b>17 Pfennigs</b><br>9:00a—WEB<br>9:30a—Preschool Chapel<br>1:00p—Senior Bridge<br>1:30p—Book Review<br>6:30p—Adult Choir Rehearsal<br>6:30p—Counseling<br>7:00p—Bible Study | <b>18 Pinkham</b><br>5:00a—Clean Nursery<br>1:00p—Senior Pinochle<br>6:30p—Dining Out Club                             | <b>19 Pittenger</b><br>5:30p—Worship   |
| <b>20 Prater</b><br>8:00a—Worship<br>9:00—Blood Pressure Check<br>9:15a—Sunday School<br>10:30a—Worship<br>2:00p—Line Dancing<br>6:30p—ATTIC<br>7:00p—Little London Winds<br>Concert   | <b>21 Preiss</b><br>9:00a—Library<br>6:30p—Cub Scouts Den 3<br>6:30p—VdC Men's Group   | <b>22 Pritchard</b><br>9:15a—RUTH<br>11:00a—Staff Meeting<br>6:45p—Jacob's Ladder Rehearsal<br>7:00p—Dancing  | <b>23 Prochnow</b><br>6:30a—Up & Adam Bible Study<br>10:30a—WEST<br>6:00p—Confirm. Dinner & Class<br>6:30p—Stephen Ministry<br>7:00p—Venture Crew 1225   | <b>24 Proenneke, B &amp; A</b><br>12:00p—Noon Day Meal<br>1:00p—Senior Bridge<br>3:00p—Christmas Eve Service<br>5:00p—Christmas Eve Service<br>7:00p—Christmas Eve Service    | <b>25 Proenneke, D &amp; S</b><br>Office Closed  | <b>26 Rackl</b><br>5:30p—Worship   |
| <b>27 Reed</b><br>8:00a—Worship<br>9:15a—Breakfast & Games<br>10:30a—Worship<br>6:30p—ATTIC  | <b>28 Reynolds</b><br>6:30p—Cub Scout Den 3<br>6:30p—VdC Men's Group   | <b>29 Rhodes</b><br>11:00a—Staff Meeting<br>6:45p—Jacob's Ladder Rehearsal  | <b>30 Rickert</b><br>6:30a—Up & Adam Bible Study<br>10:30a—WEST<br>6:00p—Confirm. Dinner & Class<br>6:30p—Stephen Ministry<br>7:00p—Venture Crew 1225  | <b>31 Rinne</b><br>New Year's Eve<br>1:00p—Senior Bridge  |  |   |

# Church Council Meeting Summary

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*Dave Lund the Council Secretary is currently out of the country. We will have an update on Council Meeting minutes. Joint Council and Team Leaders will meet on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m. in the Faith Forum.*

## Worship Attendance

|         | Sat.<br>5:30p | Sun.<br>8:00a | Sun.<br>10:30a | TOTAL |
|---------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------|
| Nov. 1  | 26            | 169           | 201            | 396   |
| Nov. 8  | 53            | 117           | 230            | 400   |
| Nov. 15 | 76            | 89            | 150            | 315   |
| Average | 52            | 125           | 194            | 370   |

| BETHEL FINANCIAL SUMMARY           |                |                 |                   |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| As of October 31, 2009             |                |                 |                   |
|                                    | Budget to Date | Actual to Date  | Actual this Month |
| <b>INCOME</b>                      | 523,320        | 509,717         | 46,654            |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                    |                |                 |                   |
| Benevolence                        | 51,990         | 42,613          | 4,163             |
| Worship, Music, Learning & Youth   | 52,110         | 45,857          | 5,838             |
| Inreach, Outreach, Stewardship     | 6,414          | 4,521           | 133               |
| Church Home & Security Team        | 71,760         | 66,838          | 3,377             |
| Ministry & Personnel               | 216,816        | 208,731         | 21,722            |
| Administration & Technology        | 33,530         | 27,381          | 3,992             |
| Building Finance                   | 90,700         | 90,708          | 9,071             |
| Total Expenses                     | 523,320        | 486,649         | 48,296            |
| <b>Net Operating Income/(Loss)</b> | -              | <b>23,067</b>   | <b>(1,642)</b>    |
| <b>BUILDING FUND</b>               |                |                 |                   |
| Building Fund Giving               | 61,521         | 47,541          | 3,524             |
| Building Fund Share of Mortgage    | 61,521         | 61,521          | 6,152             |
| <b>Net change Building Fund</b>    | -              | <b>(13,980)</b> | <b>(2,628)</b>    |

# Opportunities for Learning & Fellowship

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## FOR WOMEN

- ♦ **RUTH** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. We have social hour at 9:00am and class is from 9:30-11:00am. You won't want to miss "To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans" from the *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine. For questions, please contact Carol Nelson at 596-4945.
- ♦ **WEB (Women Exploring the Bible):** We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 9:00-11:00am, and we have childcare available weekly. Contact Karen Scharp at 282-3931.
- ♦ **WEST (Women Earnestly Seeking Truth):** Meets every Wednesday at 10:30am in the Library. We will begin a new study in December, "30 Life Principles" by Charles F. Stanley. The Christmas Pot-luck will be held at Linda Osterberg's home on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. Contact Kathy LaBree for info or questions 598-4244.
- ♦ **CRAFTY CROPPERS FOR CHRIST:** The scrapbooking/crafter group meets monthly at church, a member's home, or a nearby craft store. Food is always involved by way of a potluck sign-up. Since we generally meet in the evening, our time can extend late when croppers get creative! Please contact Carol Vogeney at 388-0139 for more information.
- ♦ **COMFORT MAKERS/HOOKS N' NEEDLES:** We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 9:00am in the Christ Center. If you have questions, call Carolyn Gianarelli at 598-0307 or Joy Martin at 528-6916.

## FOR MEN

- ♦ **UP & ADAM** meets each Wednesday from 6:30-7:30am in the Faith Forum. Contact Dick Gorell at 574-8031. Join us for discussion and coffee.

## FOR ALL

- ♦ **NEW TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**—meeting at 7:00pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. No need to pre-enroll, for questions contact Joan Skoog 277-7416.
- ♦ **BOOK REVIEW SMALL GROUP:** We will read *Dewey* by Vicki Myron. Contact Evelyn Hjeldness at 533-0489.

- ♦ **BUNCO:** Food, Fun and Fellowship! We will be meeting on Friday, **November 13<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00-9:00pm in the Christ Center. You can sign up in the Narthex or by emailing Becky at becky.bruns@gmail.com.
- ♦ **COOKING FOR FUN:** Planning meetings take place when we get together to cook & eat. If interested in joining this group, contact Barb Giblin at 596-1386.
- ♦ **DINING OUT:** On **November 20<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm, we will meet at P.F. Changs located at the Shops at Briargate. Please see the sign-up sheet. Contact Alice Hamilton at 596-8891 for more information.
- ♦ **SCRAPBOOKERS:** This month's crop will be at Carol's house on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. We can crop or just visit. Dinner will be provided. Call Carol if you can make it 388-0139.
- ♦ **LINE DANCING:** We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 2:00pm in the Christ Center. The cost is \$5 for one-hour of dancing that includes the teacher. Please join us as we learn and laugh together. Questions? Call Carol Nelson at 506-4945 or Cheryl Bingham at 592-0832.
- ♦ **BALLROOM DANCING:** In November, we will meet on Friday, **November 13<sup>th</sup>** & on Tuesday, **November 24<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00-8:30pm in the Faith Forum. Contact Lisa Knapp for more information.

## MINISTRY TEAMS

- ♦ **OUTREACH TEAM:** We are meeting on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30pm.
- ♦ **INREACH TEAM:** Contact Sarah Wulfsberg at 594-4929.

## ADULT EDUCATION

- ♦ **BETHEL ADULT BIBLE STUDY**—We will begin at 9:15am on Sundays in the Library. John Farquhar will teach about Martin Luther.
- ♦ **NEW MEMBER CLASS**—Joining Weekend on **December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**.
- ♦ **GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES**—Pastor Greg Brandvold will be teaching each Sunday morning at 9:15a.m. and going until December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please join him in the Faith Forum. The theme is: "God In Our Everyday Lives."

## Children and Family Ministry-Leslie Cutshaw

### Mission Backpacks

The Bethel Sunday school children grades PS-6 will have an opportunity to bring in offering money to be used to sponsor backpacks and items to go into the backpack for the Lutheran Family Services Foster Care program. The Sunday School children will decorate and stuff their backpacks on Sunday, **December 20**. A representative from Lutheran Family Services will also be giving a presentation to the children on that same Sunday, and the backpacks will be blessed and given to LFS at that time. Questions?? Contact Jodi Hoffman at [jodihcs@pcisys.net](mailto:jodihcs@pcisys.net) or 332-0222.

### Children's Christmas Program

This year's Christmas Program "**Sing a Song of Christmas**" will be held on **December 13<sup>th</sup>** between the church services. We will be needing help in all areas to include set construction, props, supplying refreshments during rehearsals, costume construction, dance choreography, lighting, etc... Please call Barb Hamstad at 599-9410 or e-mail her at [bhamstad@comcast.net](mailto:bhamstad@comcast.net) if you are an adult or teen interested in the planning process or would just like to help the day of the event. **There will be an ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL DRESS REHEARSAL in the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30a.m.-11:00a.m. Christmas Program Special Music**—We will be having special music again this year prior to the beginning of the Christmas Program. This opportunity is for any interested Bethel children and teens. Please email Susan Bodlak at [srbodlak@qwest.net](mailto:srbodlak@qwest.net) if you would like to share your God-given musical talents in this way.

### Preschool Sunday School Teachers Assistant

Are you a teen who loves working with Preschoolers. If so we need your help! Our preschool Sunday School class has been growing and the teachers could use an extra pair of hands and a smiling face to help out. Please call Leslie Cutshaw to find out more about this volunteer opportunity.

### Children's Ministry Fellowship Groups

**GOD'S GOODS (K-3 grade) & BETHEL BUDDIES (4-6 grade)**—*Please remember God's Goods requires parent/adult participation due to the age of the children.*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>** during the Sunday School hour, we will have intergenerational games and breakfast. Come enjoy the fun!

## 2010 Rainbow Summer Schedule

The Rainbow Trail summer schedule has been set. The fee will be \$365 for all youth camps, with the exception of Intro camp, which will be \$190. Be sure to register early! To find out more about these camps, the brochure can be found at [www.rainbowtrail.org](http://www.rainbowtrail.org). Age levels as of Fall 2010 are: Intro to Camp=entering 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Juniors = entering 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Junior High = entering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and Senior High = entering 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

In December, we will have our Holiday program on **December 17<sup>th</sup>** at 12:00p.m. Please join us. We are closed for the Christmas break **December 21<sup>st</sup>-January 5<sup>th</sup>**. Students are back to school on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

For All Bethel members, there are still openings in both classes, so please tell your family, friends, and neighbors about this great Preschool.

## Senior Ministry News

**SOCIALS** (Contact: Susan Kinney) Senior Potluck on Friday, **November 6<sup>th</sup>** at 12:00p.m. in the Faith Forum. Sign up in the Narthex.

**OUTINGS** (Contacts: Judi Taylor and Evelyn Hjeldness) **November 20<sup>th</sup>** we will be going to another concert at the AFA. It will be a Christmas concert by “The Ten Tenors.” The tickets are \$35 and we will carpool from the church.

**GAMES** (Contacts: Susan Kinney & Esther Byrd) Bridge is every Thursday at 1:00p.m. in the Faith Forum. Pinochle is the first and third Friday of each month at 1:00p.m.

**SERVICE PROJECTS** (Contact Judy Hodges) Bethel’s Senior Ministry Team will be collecting men’s socks and blankets for the Colorado Springs Rescue Mission again this year. We will be collecting through Mid-November. Please place your items in the boxes in the Narthex. Thank you so much.

**COLUMBARIUM**—2 units are for sale \$800.00, please contact Charles Evan at 574-7278 for more information.

**LITTLE LONDON WINDS CONCERT**—December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. Please come!

### **The Passion Play of Oberammergau, including Germany, Austria, and Switzerland September 27-October 7, 2010.**

#### **This trip will soon be filled! There are 7 spots left on the trip**

This particular trip includes the Passion Play of Oberammergau. Regarded as the longest running play in history, the Passion Play portraying Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection, is presented every ten years in this charming Bavarian town.

In addition to the play, we will also visit a number of beautiful German, Austrian and Swiss cities. From the Neuschwanstein Castle, one of the most photographed palaces in the world, to Munich the capital of Bavaria, to Salzburg where Mozart was born, to the beautiful Swiss Alps of Innsbruck, to the breathtaking grandeur of Lake Lucerne, Switzerland; this is a trip filled with beauty and a photographers dream!

When you register with a \$2000 deposit, your place on the trip and to the play is secured. Friends and family members are welcome. Consider this your invitation to join the tour on a memorable trip to one of the most scenic areas in the world. Come and join us for 11 days of inspiration, growth, fun and fellowship together. The tour includes guaranteed tickets to the Passion Play, round trip airfare from Denver and a professional tour director with comprehensive sightseeing throughout.

If you have any other questions, please speak with Pastor John. **We are looking for a single female to pair up with someone as a roommate.**

## Golden Parachutes During Troubled Times

The following article was submitted by Kristi Glass, a Stephen Leader from Elko Nevada, and succinctly describes the role of a Stephen Minister during troubled times. These acts of support she describes are going on every day at Bethel with our team of 32 Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders. Stephen Ministry may be just the golden parachute you are looking for.

Many of us go through difficult times in our lives, such as death of a loved one, a divorce, unemployment, or health issues. We may experience stress from serving as a caregiver to others, or from trying to make ends meet financially. The current state of our economy has us all feeling uncertain, wondering how our families and our nest egg will make it through the next few years. We see the government providing golden parachutes in the form of bailouts to big business...but what about me? Who is going to help us through not only our financial troubles, but also the other difficult challenges we face?

As Christians, we know that we are not alone. God loves us and listens to our thoughts and prayers, but sometimes that does not feel like enough support because we cannot see or hear Him. When we are feeling stressed out, alone, lost or in serious need of tangible comfort and support we need someone to listen to our concerns and to physically be with us through our challenging times.

To fill our need, God provides Stephen Ministers to act as our golden parachutes. So when you feel like you've been pushed out of an airplane and you don't know where or how you are going to land a Stephen Minister can help you glide to a safe landing in a peaceful place. All you need to do is ask for Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministers don't try to solve or fix your problems. Instead they skillfully listen to you, pray for you and with you, and care deeply about you for as long as you need. If you are in need of a golden parachute, or you know someone that is, please contact Pastor John or the church office at 570-9800 and they can connect you with the Stephen Ministry Team to get your golden parachute to you.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Second Family Ministry Christmas Bake Sale

December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, looking for holiday bakers and tasters. Our proceeds are maximized by matching Thrivent dollars. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can contact Karen Kolseth at 442-0124.

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. Advent Services

Christmas Eve 3, 5 and 7p.m.

Breakfast at Bethel returns on December 27<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Come and enjoy a hot breakfast and time of fellowship in the Christ Center during the festive Christmas and New year season.



## **It Helps to Recall Where We Have Been While Charting Bethel's "Way Forward"**

To successfully plan for Bethel's "Way Forward," it helps to recall where Bethel has been. Bethel's first congregational vote to disassociate from the ELCA on October 15<sup>th</sup> was approved by a 77% margin. But the research, fact finding, and hundreds of hours spent by Council and the Human Sexuality Study Group actually began in March 2009, in preparation for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August.

Many Bethel members have attended one or more of the meetings held at Bethel over the last several months. Seven meetings have been facilitated by Council and the Study Group thus far. Two were presented in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in El Paso, TX which was attended by Bethel's elected Synod delegates, Eric and Sarah Wulfsberg (one prior to the RMS Assembly and one after). Only eight Bethel members attended the first presentation, and fourteen members attended the second. Both meetings were scheduled during the adult education period on Sunday morning in between services. During the pre-assembly meeting, an overview of the RMS Assembly agenda was presented, and a summary of how our delegates would vote was shared with attendees. During the post-assembly meeting, Eric and Sarah presented a recap of the voting results in El Paso.

Subsequent to the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly, but prior to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis, Council and the Study Group facilitated three separate forums for Bethel members. These three forums were very well publicized (letters were mailed to all Bethel members, emails were distributed to the Bethel email list, and announcements were published on the Bethel website, in the bulletin, and in the newsletter). Council and the Study Group members presented over two hours of information to attendees at each of these three forums. This information included an overview of the major issues that would be voted on at the Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis. Both the ELCA's position (as obtained from the ELCA) and the concerns of Council were presented to members. Printed handouts of Council's Powerpoint presentation were provided to anyone at the meeting who wanted them. Questions were fielded from members in attendance, and an open dialog between Council, Study Group members, and Pastor John occurred at each of the three forums. Just under 100 members attended each one of these three forums.

Council directed the Study Group to make available to the congregation position papers of the ELCA (as prepared by the ELCA) regarding its proposed Human Sexuality Policy statement. These papers were made readily available at the Welcome Center at Bethel. A written Survey (regarding the ELCA's Human Sexuality Policy) was also prepared by Council and the Study Group and also made available for all members at the Welcome Center. The Survey was also made available electronically via a link on Bethel's website (the link address was again well publicized via email, the bulletin, and the newsletter). It was also shared at each of the three pre-assembly forums. Council received 72 responses to the Survey and approximately 33 written letters and emails from members with opinions on both sides of the ELCA's Human Sexuality issue. Due to the sensitive nature of some of the Survey responses, Council chose not to disclose the actual survey responses to the congregation, but it did share the percentage of respondents who supported or opposed the ELCA's Human Sexuality Policy Statement. [The percentages of these results very closely matched the results Bethel's voting members cast at the Special Congregational Meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>].

Following the Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis, Council and the Study Group facilitated two additional post-assembly forums for Bethel members. Both of these post-assembly forums were well publicized in the bulletin, by email, and on Bethel's website. The results of the items voted on at the Churchwide Assembly were shared with attendees. A brief recap of the items discussed at the three pre-assembly forums was presented, and additional handouts of Council's Powerpoint presentation were made available at the forum. Once again, questions from members were fielded by Council. Pastor John also made a 30 minute presentation at each of these two post-assembly forums in which he candidly and thoroughly shared with members his thoughts regarding the ELCA and his preferences for Bethel's "Way Forward." Council was pleased that over 100 members attended each of these two post-assembly forums.

During the entire pre-assembly and post-assembly forum period, Pastor John, Council, and the Study Group made it a point to remain as open and accessible to the entire congregation. Council also made every effort to remain impartial and unbiased throughout the process until the post-assembly forums. Bethel members were solicited by Council to participate in the Study Group. Five members volunteered to serve on the Study Group, which spent an enormous amount of time researching the history of the ELCA's Human Sexuality Policy going back over ten years. Council has met in both regular and special sessions – all publicized and open to Bethel members - since March to review the materials researched by the Study Group.

Part of the Study Group's deliberations during this time also included attending the annual conference of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission with Christ (LCMC) in Fargo, ND. Several Bethel members and Pastor John attended this conference to learn first hand what LCMC was all about so that they could report their findings to Bethel members.

*(Continued on next page)*

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the culmination of literally hundreds of volunteer hours of research, attending meetings, and making presentations to report all of Council's findings to the members of Bethel occurred at a specially called congregational meeting and vote by active rostered Bethel members. The two Resolutions that were presented to members to vote on at the Special Meeting had been previously shared with all Bethel members by letter, email, and via Bethel's website. In strict accordance with Bethel's constitution and the requirements of the ELCA, the Special Meeting format itself followed the protocol of Roberts Rules of Order (the identical meeting format utilized by the ELCA at its Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in El Paso, TX and at the Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis). The first order of business at the Special Meeting resulted in the passing of two special rules, one which set the voting period of the meeting until 9:30pm to better accommodate voting members' work schedules and school activities. Attendees also approved a second special rule regarding a three minute time limit for attendees wishing to make public comments.

After approximately 30 minutes into the Special Meeting during which time statements in favor and in opposition of the Resolutions were heard, the question (i.e. to vote to approve the Resolutions) was called by a member. Both Resolutions were then voted on. The first Resolution to have Bethel disassociate from the ELCA passed on a 77% margin, and the second Resolution to have Bethel study and evaluate an alternate Lutheran body with which to re-affiliate passed on a 79% margin. Nearly 300 voting members attended the Special Meeting and cast their votes (this was over 40% of the total voting member roster for Bethel, which most political analysts would agree was a huge voter turnout percentage).

Next up are two additional meetings. The first will be a "consultation" with the Bishop for the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod, as required by Bethel's constitution and the ELCA. When the Bishop selects one of the five dates Council has offered for him to meet with the congregation (as of this publishing we had not yet heard back from the Bishop) Council will again notify members by mail, email, bulletin, website link, and newsletter of the date and time for this meeting. Council is responsible for setting the agenda for this meeting, which will again be publicized as details become known. The second meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2009 for the purpose of holding a second congregational vote. The first Resolution (for Bethel to disassociate with the ELCA) will again be voted on. The second Resolution will be for Bethel to affiliate with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). Again, Council will publicize this meeting as best as it can to ensure all members are informed.

One additional meeting will be facilitated by Council on January 7, 2010 at which Rev. Dr. Bruce Wilder (Senior Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, a large former ELCA congregation in Albuquerque, NM) will speak candidly about his congregation's subsequent re-affiliation with LCMC. Pastor Bruce is also the newly elected director of LCMC. Bethel members will be invited to attend this meeting to listen to Pastor Bruce, and to ask questions they may have about LCMC. Council has previously met informally with Pastor Bruce and found him to be a completely open and honorable individual, with no agenda other than to closely embrace scriptural truth and serve our Lord.

From dialog with numerous other ELCA congregational representatives in Colorado, Bethel is the only congregation to date that has undertaken such an extensive process to evaluate and assess its future with the ELCA. It has been amazing to learn how few other congregations even know what occurred at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August, primarily because the leadership of other congregations have not organized a process like the one Bethel's leaders have.

Throughout this entire process and up until the first Special Meeting and congregational vote to disassociate from the ELCA, Council, Pastor John, and the Study Group have made every effort to not let personal preferences and emotion drive the process. All material presented to the congregation has been factual, and a conscious effort has been made to present material in a balanced manner. No assumptions or foregone conclusions with regard to our ELCA affiliation were made by Council prior to the post-assembly forums. The congregation has been kept informed at all times, and Council has made a sincere effort to listen to anyone who wished to share their opinion - without rendering its own opinion as to "The Way Forward."

In His Service,

Bill Guman, President

Bethel Congregational Council

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

|       |  |       |   |       |   |
|-------|--|-------|---|-------|---|
| 12/1  | Paige Albers<br>Lawrence Hennings<br>Larry Stanley<br>Brooke Wallinger | 12/15 | Greg Fisher<br>Hannah Prochnow                                      | 12/29 | Steve Helmreich<br>Lindsey Petersen           |
| 12/2  | Steve Ogurek<br>Gene Wahl  | 12/16 | Ed Gayo   | 12/30 | Raelyn Kagarise<br>Bill Mac Enulty            |
| 12/3  | Dave Bunkers<br>Noelle Jacobsen<br>Nicholas Koeser<br>Carol Simpson    | 12/18 | Norm Burrowes<br>Matt Vogeney                                       | 12/31 | Holly Dunker<br>Evelyn Hjeldness<br>Ryan Moen |
| 12/4  | Larry Emerson<br>Nathan Gayo<br>Iain Rhodes                            | 12/19 | Debby Debolt<br>Linda Hintgen                                       |       |   |
| 12/5  | Diane Glaser   | 12/20 | Marcus Lewis<br>Larry McMillin<br>Dan Thuringer                     |       |   |
| 12/6  | Bill Newmiller<br>John Unick<br>Katie Upton                            | 12/21 | Jaysen Komrofske<br>Howard Schroeder                                |       |   |
| 12/7  | Kammi Eckhoff<br>Fred Miller   | 12/22 | Brenda Bostow<br>Angie Kagarise<br>Courtney Kurth<br>Sara Palazzari |       |   |
| 12/10 | Sheanna Kagarise   | 12/23 | Andrew Nodtvedt   |       |   |
| 12/11 | Scott Essigmann<br>Rob MacDonald<br>Kristen Schaelling                 | 12/24 | Paul Bankes<br>Kathy LaBree   |       |   |
| 12/12 | Kimberly Bonnin<br>Jennifer Figueroa                                   | 12/25 | Buddy Babcock   |       |   |
| 12/14 | Kayla Childs<br>Jessica Haab   | 12/26 | Christine Mauck   |       |   |
|       |  | 12/27 | Myah Isaïs<br>Roger Schutte<br>Ben Upton                            |       |   |
|       |  | 12/28 | Susan Hengel<br>Austin Newman                                       |       |   |

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

|          |                          |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 55 years | Bud & Edie Rodvold       |
| 54 years | Don & Virginia Nickel    |
| 43 years | Barb & Jim Giblin        |
| 37 years | John & Fran Unick        |
| 26 years | Dave & Carol Nelson      |
| 21 years | Bill & Carol Vogeney     |
| 19 years | Russell & Joyce Anderson |
| 19 years | Terry & Susan Kinney     |
| 17 years | Paul & Amy Torchinsky    |
| 14 years | Greg & Desiree Klose     |
| 5 years  | Matt & Debby DeBolt      |
| 4 years  | Brett & Lori Nerem       |
| 2 years  | Jason & Tracey Goettsch  |

Boston Michael Leaver was  
baptized in November by  
Chaplain Paul A  
Anderson and his parents are Ali &  
Cody Leaver.

